SUBIRRIGATED RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

a. This site is on low lying lands of depressions and drainageways in glacial till plains, lake plains, and outwash plains. Slopes are commonly less than two percent.

2. SOILS

a. These are deep, somewhat poorly drained soils having medium to moderately fine textured surface soils and moderately coarse textured subsoils. These soils have a high water table which keeps the rooting zone moist for most of the growing season. Permeability is moderately slow and available water capacity is high.

b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Bearden silt loam and silty clay loam
Hamerly loam, silt loam, and clay loam
Lamoure silty clay loam and silt loam
Vallers clay loam and silty clay loam

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

a. Tall warm-season grasses dominate the general appearance of this site. Principal species are big bluestem, switchgrass, little bluestem, and prairie cordgrass. Other species are western wheatgrass, indiangrass, northern reedgrass, slender wheatgrass, tall dropseed, and Kentucky bluegrass. A small amount of sedges and rushes may occur on this site. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Shrubs may occur in minor amounts on the site.

b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of big bluestem, switchgrass, prairie crodgrass, northern reedgrass, indiangrass, and little bluestem. Species that increase are mat muhly, fowl bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, rushes, and undesirable forbs.

c. Total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 3500 to 4400 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Big bluestem	1185	30
Switchgrass	790	20
Western wheatgrass	198	5
Little bluestem	198	5
Prairie cordgrass	198	5
Indiangrass Slender wheatgrass Northern reedgrass Tall dropseed Mat muhly	197	5
~~Kentucky bluegrass~~ Other grasses	395	10
Grasslikes		
Slim sedge Woolly sedge Fescue sedge	197	5
Baltic rush Common spikerush Other grasslikes	197	5
Forbs		
Maximillian sunflower Tall goldenrod Heath aster Canada anemone Wild lily Silverweed cinquefoil Other forbs	395	10
Shrubs		
Woods rose Western snowberry Willow species Other shrubs	T*	--
Total	3950	100

* T refers to trace amounts, 2½ percent weight or less.

3--Subirrigated Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

a. This site is highly suited for both cattle and sheep due to the variety of forage plants available. The best season of grazing is summer when the warm-season grasses are making good growth. The site also provides fall grazing; however, nutrient levels of warm-season grasses are low in the fall and protein supplements are usually necessary.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

a. This site provides forage for the white-tailed deer and antelope. Small mammals such as the red fox and jackrabbit use this site for food and cover. Upland birds commonly found are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, red-winged blackbird, and horned lark.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

a. This site is especially colorful during spring and summer when its flowering plants are developing. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

a. This site commonly receives additional run-in from the adjacent watershed. Runoff from the site is slow and water transmission rate of the soil is slow.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS